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ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	INL-00
	DODE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	ED-01	EUR-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	VCE-00
	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	PA-00	PM-00
	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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SIPDIS

PASS USAID FOR AID/W, AFR/SD, ALEX ROSS AND ROXANA ROGERS, AFR/SA, NAN NEWMAN AND MELISSA WILLIAMS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PREL SOCI KHIV TBIO ZI

SUBJECT: U.S. - E.U. COOPERATION ON HIV/AIDS, MALARIA AND TUBERCULOSIS IN AFRICA, 31 JULY 2000

REF: (A) HARARE 01611 (B) STATE 152319 (C) PATTEN-NIELSON LETTER DELEGATIONS IN AFRICA

NOTE: THIS CABLE HAS BEEN CLEARED BY THE E.U.'S HARARE OFFICE

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11. SUMMARY: DONOR COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION IN ZIMBABWE IS A CORE COMPONENT OF THE U.S. MISSION'S RESPONSE TO THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE. THE U.S. MISSION, AND ITS E.U. PARTNERS, ARE TAKING THE LEAD IN THE DONOR COMMUNITY IN MITIGATING THE HIV/AIDS CRISIS. THE U.S. MISSION PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MOBILIZING THE DONOR COMMUNITY TO COORDINATE AND COLLABORATE IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE IMPACT OF WHAT REMAIN LIMITED DONOR RESOURCES. THE U.S. MISSION SUPPORTS THE INTENSIFIED COMMITMENT FOSTERED AT THE QUELUZ SUMMIT TO ADVANCE U.S. - E.U. COOPERATION ON HIV/AIDS. END SUMMARY

12. BACKGROUND: THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC HAS PROPELLED ZIMBABWE RAPIDLY TOWARDS A CRISIS AT BOTH THE HOUSEHOLD AND NATIONAL LEVELS. THE STATISTICS PORTRAY AN ALARMING SITUATION: UNAIDS ESTIMATES 25% OF THE SEXUALLY ACTIVE ADULT POPULATION TO BE HIV-INFECTED AND THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 500,000 ORPHANS IN ZIMBABWE. SHOCKING AS THE CURRENT SITUATION IS, THE FULL IMPACT OF THE DISEASE HAS YET TO BE FELT. GIVEN THE HIGH PREVALENCE, MORTALITY RATES WILL CONTINUE TO ESCALATE IN COMING YEARS. THE HIGH DEATH RATE WILL RESULT IN EVEN MORE ORPHANS -- AN ESTIMATED 910,000 BY THE YEAR 2005.

13. U.S. EMBASSY RESPONSE: GIVEN THE GRAVITY OF THE CRISIS, U.S. AMBASSADOR MCDONALD HAS MADE HIV PREVENTION A TOP PRIORITY FOR THE PROGRAMS SPONSORED BY THE MISSION. THE AMBASSADOR MOBILIZES OTHER UNCLASSIFIED

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MEMBERS OF THE DONOR COMMUNITY, INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE EU DELEGATION, FREQUENTLY HOLDING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH FELLOW AMBASSADORS ABOUT PROVIDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO COMBAT THE EPIDEMIC. THESE TALKS SET THE TONE AND TENOR FOR THE REST OF THE MISSION AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE GOZ, OUR MULTIPLE PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERS AND THE DONOR COMMUNITY.

14. USAID PROGRAMMING: USAID PROGRAMMING CONTINUES TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE U.S. MISSION'S HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES. USAID'S BUDGET FOR HIV/AIDS HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED TO USD \$7.2 MILLION THIS YEAR AND REPRESENTS OVER 50 PERCENT OF USAID/ZIMBABWE'S ANNUAL BUDGET. HIV/AIDS CRISIS MITIGATION IS ONE OF THE USAID MISSION'S CORE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES. THIS PROGRAM IS A DYNAMIC AND INNOVATIVE, FIVE-YEAR, \$35 MILLION EFFORT FOCUSED ON BEHAVIOR CHANGE, POLICY AND ADVOCACY AND SUPPORT TO COMMUNITIES FOR CHILDREN ORPHANED BY AIDS. FOR SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE U.S. MISSION RESPONSE, STRATEGY AND ACTIVITIES SEE REF A.

15. COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION: AN OVERARCHING COMPONENT TO USAID'S HIV/AIDS STRATEGIC PLAN IS COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION WITH DONORS WHOM THE U.S. MISSION CONSIDERS AS PARTNERS. THE USAID MISSION HAS TAKEN A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN HIV/AIDS DONOR COLLABORATION, INCLUDING ESTABLISHING AN HIV/AIDS TECHNICAL GROUP, WHICH MEETS BI-MONTHLY TO SHARE TECHNICAL INFORMATION, COORDINATE STRATEGIES AND DISSEMINATE RESULTS OF PROGRAM ACHIEVEMENTS.

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PARTICIPANTS OF THE DONOR GROUP INCLUDE: EUROPEAN UNION (EU), WHO, UNDP, UNAIDS, UNICEF, WORLD BANK, THE AUSTRALIAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AUSAID), THE EMBASSIES OF SWEDEN, DENMARK, NORWAY AND JAPAN, JAPAN INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY (JICA) THE BRITISH DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (DFID), SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (SIDA), THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA), CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) AND USAID. IN ADDITION, THERE IS A REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH GROUP THAT MEETS ON A REGULAR BASIS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE (GOZ). THE PURPOSE OF THIS GROUP IS TO DISCUSS PUBLIC SECTOR CONDOM, CONTRACEPTIVE AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED ILLNESS (STI) DRUG SECURITY. PARTICIPANTS INCLUDE THE GOZ MINISTRY OF HEALTH (MOH), UNFPA, DFID, WORLD BANK, EU AND USAID.

16. DFID/USAID CO-FINANCING: TO DATE, THE MOST SIGNIFICANT E.U. PARTNER FOR USAID HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES HAS BEEN DFID. DFID HAS BEEN COLLABORATING WITH USAID IN CO-FINANCING THE LARGEST HIV/AIDS PREVENTION ACTIVITY IN ZIMBABWE -- SOCIAL MARKETING OF CONDOMS AND VOLUNTARY COUNSELING AND

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TESTING. IN ADDITION TO CO-FINANCING THE ACTIVITY, ON GOING MONITORING OF IMPLEMENTATION, EVALUATIONS AND WEEKLY MEETINGS ENSURE CLOSE COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION OF HIV/AIDS SOCIAL MARKETING IMPLEMENTATION.

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17. EU SUPPORT TO THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS IN ZIMBABWE: THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY IS A RELATIVELY NEW COOPERATING PARTNER IN THE HEALTH SECTOR IN ZIMBABWE, APART FROM EXTENSIVE SUPPORT TO LOCAL FACILITIES THROUGH ITS MICROPROJECTS FUND, SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR UNDER THE SEVENTH AND SIXTH EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (EDF) WAS MINIMAL. THERE WAS, HOWEVER SOME SUPPORT FOR AIDS ACTIVITIES UNDER A REGIONAL PROGRAM. UNDER THE EIGHTH EDF, WHICH RUNS FROM 1996-01, THE SITUATION IS VERY DIFFERENT. OF THE TOTAL NATIONAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME (NIP) OF EURO 110 MILLION, EURO 24.5 MILLION HAS ALREADY BEEN COMMITTED FOR THE HEALTH SECTOR SUPPORT PROGRAMME I (HSSP I). THIS WILL PROVIDE SUPPORT TO DECENTRALISATION AND THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE COLLABORATIVE FRAMEWORK. ABOUT 70% OF THE TOTAL FUNDS WILL BE USED TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALTH

SERVICES FUND (HSF).

A FURTHER EURO 30 MILLION WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO PRESERVE THE HUMAN CAPITAL OF THE COUNTRY IN THE FACE OF THE SEVERE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC INCLUDING;

1A. PROVISION OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS AND SUPPLIES FOR TREATMENT OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS, INCLUDING HIV/AIDS AND TB. (THE WORLD BANK WAS SUPPORTING THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE IN THE PROVISION OF THESE DRUGS UNTIL 1999). THE EU ALSO PROPOSES TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED COMMERCIALIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT MEDICAL STORES.

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1B. REVITALIZATION OF THE NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE (NBTS).

18. E.U./U.S. QUELUZ SUMMIT: IN RESPONSE TO THE SUBJECT SUMMIT, THE U.S. MISSION HAS MET WITH THE FRENCH EMBASSY AND E.U. WE HAVE ALSO SHARED THIS CABLE WITH THE E.U. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE HIV TECHNICAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH GROUPS NOTED ABOVE WERE SOUND AND USEFUL FORA FOR E.U./U.S. HIV/AIDS DONOR COLLABORATION. ADDITIONAL MEETINGS BETWEEN THE E.U. AND PARTNERS WILL BE SCHEDULED TO EXPLORE CREATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR FURTHER COLLABORATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HIV/AIDS ACTIVITIES.

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